

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 PM-05 ACDA-12 ERDA-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05

FEAE-00 DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 /098 W

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3631

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PARM TECH ENRG MO

SUBJECT: GOM REQUEST FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT

REF A. STATE 266576, B. STATE 269969

1. DURING NOV 11 CALL ON MFA DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ALAOUI (PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS UNCTAD-RELATED ISSUES) E/C COUNSELOR TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM HIM OF STATUS OF GOM'S REQUEST FOR EARLY CONCLUSION OF BILATERAL NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT (NCA).

2. DRAWING ON REF A E/C COUNSELOR SAID THAT CONGRESS WAS PRESENTLY REVISING US NONPROLIFERATION LEGISLATION, BUT THAT ENACTMENT UNLIKELY BEFORE EARLY 1978. NEVERTHELESS, USG CONTINUES TO BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING NCA WITH GOM AND WAS SEEKING APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY TO BEGIN SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

3. ALAOUI EXPRESSED DISMAY AT IMPLICATION OF DELAY AND IMMEDIATELY TELEPHONED GOM MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES MOUSSA SAADI TO RELAY FACTS. AFTER THIS CALL, ALAOUI REPORTED THAT:

-- MOROCCO PREFERS TO WORK WITH US NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY,

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-- INSTALLATION OF NUCLEAR RESEARCH REACTOR WILL BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE NEXT (1978-82) FIVE-YEAR PLAN; MOREOVER, NUMEROUS ANCILLARY PROJECTS (ALSO PROVIDED FOR IN THE NEW PLAN) ARE PREDICATED ON IMPLEMENTATION OF A MOROCCAN NUCLEAR RESEARCH PROGRAM, --RESOURCES FOR THESE PROJECTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN EARMARKED IN THE PLAN, AND SOME PRELIMINARY FUNDING HAS ALREADY BEEN

INCLUDED IN NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET,

-- GOM'S PLANS AND FUND ALLOCATIONS WOULD BE DISRUPTED BY ANY SIGNIFICANT DELAY IN MOVING AHEAD WITH THE RESEARCH REACTOR PROJECT,

-- GOM HAD HOPED THAT AN NCA COULD HAVE BEEN SIGNED DURING KING'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO US.

4. ALAOUI THEN ALLUDED TO POSSIBILITY THAT IF NCA COULD NOT BE SIGNED BY EARLY NEXT YEAR GOM MIGHT BE COMPELLED TO RECONSIDER ITS CONTRACT WITH GENERAL ATOMIC, AND PERHAPS LOOK ELSEWHERE. E/C COUNSELOR URGED GOM UNDERSTANDING FOR SITUATION USG PRESENTLY CONFRONTED WITH, ESPECIALLY PRESSING BUSINESS WHICH CONGRESS FACING WITH RESPECT TO PRESIDENT'S ENERGY PACKAGE. AT ALAOUI'S REQUEST, HOWEVER, HE UNDERTOOK TO REPORT GOM'S CONCERNS.

5. COMMENT: JUST RECEIVED REF B. WILL FOLLOW UP AS APPROPRIATE. MOST HELPFUL AT PRESENT JUNCTURE WOULD BE ANY INDICATION WE COULD PASS ON AS TO PREFERRED VENUE AND APPROXIMATE TIMING OF DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO NCA, THIS TO AVOID ANY GOM TEMPTATION TO RE-THINK ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH GENERAL ATOMIC. IN LIGHT OF EXISTING GOM COMMITMENTS TO IAEA, FOR EXAMPLE, COULD DISCUSSIONS BEGIN PRIOR TO ENACTMENT OF NEW LEGISLATION? ALSO, WHAT WOULD BE NORMAL EXPECTED DELAY BETWEEN OPENING OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEGOTIATIONS AND SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT? FURTHERMORE, DOES AGREEMENT HAVE TO BE RATIFIED, AND IF SO, WHAT IS REASONABLE EXPECTED TIME-FRAME BETWEEN SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION? FINALLY, CAN LICENSE BE ISSUED FOR RESEARCH REACTOR AS SOON AS AGREEMENT SIGNED (OR RATIFIED)?
ANDERSON

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Sent Date: 15-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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